

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

May 27, 1997

LB 90

must be bias-motivated due to the minority of the intended victim. However, the prosecuting attorney must prove the bias motivation. I would just like to add that this bill was supported by the...Executive Director of the Nebraska Advocacy Services, Nebraskans For Peace, the National Association of Social Workers, the Commission of the Status of Women, the Silver-Haired Unicameral, the Omaha Police Department, the NSEA, Lincoln Interfaith...they have 70 churches and they all support this. Also, ACLU supports this and they came out in strong support of this bill, and that seems a little strange for the ACLU because that's the one...the type of bill that usually divides the members of their organization, but they said that they are really supporting this because Nebraska...that's what ACLU Nebraska believes that hate crimes...they want to have a training provision if the First Amendment's rights are to be protected. They urge...ACLU urges Nebraska to advance LB 90, and...I'd just like to conclude by saying I'll be happy to answer any questions if there are any.

SENATOR LANDIS PRESIDING

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Senator Robak. There are committee amendments. (AM1358 appears on page 1437 of the Legislative Journal.) The Chair recognizes Senator Brashear, followed by Senator Chambers who is the one light that's on.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. Chairman, members of the body. The committee amendments in work, I believe, takes Senator Robak's idea in terms of appropriately directing our attention at identifying and punishing people for what we refer to as "hate crimes" and refines it in a way that I think and hope and urge that the body find acceptable. As originally written, the bill LB 90 would have covered any unlawful offense against a victim or a victim's property because of the victim's race, color, and so forth. The same list is consistent throughout all of the work. But in consultation with members of the Judiciary Committee, and specifically in consultation with Senator Robak and Senator Chambers and others, we concluded that it would be preferable and better policy to direct this legislation at those particular offenses which we could identify within the criminal code which are typical of the kind which are directed against people by reason of their race, color, religion, ancestry,